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Former Trump Hotels exec acquires Black Hawk's Gold Mine Casino

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Gary Green, a gambling-industry veteran and former Trump Hotels & Casinos executive, has purchased the former Gold Mine Casino in Black Hawk for undisclosed terms, the buyer said Monday.

Green, currently a managing director at The Gaming Group of Boca Raton, Fla., said he acquired the vacant casino by assuming all its obligations, including debt, while paying a minimum of cash. Specifics of the deal were not disclosed.

The casino's previous owner paid \$2.6 million for it, according to Green. "This is a premier property with absolutely amazing potential," Green said in a statement. "And it is the last property in the legal gaming district. How cool is that?"

The 10,900-square-foot, three-story casino built in the early 1990s is located at 130 Clear Creek St., near the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa.

The Gold Mine was scheduled to be sold at auction on Dec. 11, 2010, but the highest bid of \$1.9 million was rejected as less than the owner's reserve price, according to Green.

His agreement with the sellers, based on future casino revenue, allowed them "a graceful exit," Green said in a statement.

The casino previously was owned by Adam Krier and Mike Hills, University of Denver graduates who bought the property in early 2009 and planned the convert it to a Las Vegas-style casino, but couldn't get financing, according to KDVR.com. The casino opened in 1991 and shut down in 1999.

Green has a long track record in the gaming/hospitality industry, working as vice president of marketing for the Trump organization for a couple of years, according to his LinkedIn resume. He wrote a book called "Marketing **Donald Trump**," published last year.

The gaming pro also has developed, owned and/or managed casinos with companies such as Synergy Gaming of Hollywood, Fla.

Before getting into the gaming and marketing businesses, Green was a folk singer (recording for Folkways Records of New York), union organizer, journalist and co-owner of a circus, according to his resume. In 2005, Casino Journal Magazine called him "one of the last great characters of the casino world."

The Gaming Group of Florida develops casinos worldwide, with current projects in the Caribbean islands of St. Kitts and St. Maarten, Nevada, New York and New Jersey. The company also brokers casino purchases.

Compiled by the DBJ's Paula Moore

Coyote Valley Band Re-Elects Chairman and Elects New Tribal Chief



L-R: Richard Campbell, Sr. and John Feliz, Jr.

In a recent election, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians re-elected John Feliz, Jr. as Chairman and Richard Campbell, Sr. as Tribal Chief.

John Feliz, Jr. will be serving his second term as Chairman. Prior to his election as Tribal Chair in January 2005, Chairman Feliz served as Chair of the Coyote Valley Tribal Gaming Commission from 1999 to 2002 and as administrative assistant to previous Tribal Chairs from 1991 to 2002. "I am committed to serving my tribe and ensuring the continued survival of our culture and beliefs," said Chairman Feliz. "We are strong people with proud traditions and much to accomplish as we move forward."

Richard Campbell, Sr. was elected Tribal Chief. It is Campbell's first term on the Tribal Council. "It's an honor to be elected Tribal Chief and a true blessing to be able to serve the tribe in this manner," said Chief Campbell.

The Coyote Valley Tribal Council is comprised of seven tribal members who are elected by a general membership made up of all tribal members ages 18 and older. Elections are staggered for all four-year term positions.

Tribal Council members who were not up for re-election and will continue to serve in their previous capacities include Patrick Naredo, Jr., Vice Chair of the Tribal Council; Candace Lowe, Tribal Secretary; Sheralyne Burke Tribal Treasurer; John Feliz, Sr. Tribal Historian; and Members At-Large Todd Ramos and Melinda Hunter.

G.A. Wright Marketing Welcomes Kevin Elkmann as New Creative Manager



Kevin Elkmann

G.A. Wright Marketing, Inc., The Direct Agency for Gaming & Hospitality, welcomes Kevin Elkmann as its new Creative Manager. Kevin's career started in Chicago where he designed, published and managed production for a group of nine monthly magazines. In 2000 he moved to Denver where he spent the last nine years in a wide range of advertising roles.

A jack-of-all-trades, Kevin has served as Production Manager, Copywriter, Art Director, and Creative Director. He has created branding, ad campaigns, print collateral, and interactive designs for national clients such as EAS, Molson, Coleman Natural Foods, and Moosehead Beer.

He was also the driving force behind Opera Colorado's seasonal artwork for three years, and was most recently Creative Director at The Winter Group working with clients such as Epson, The Wall Street Journal, College Board, Adobe, and PBS.

Kevin will co-direct the Creative Services department at

G.A. Wright and oversee all project traffic. "We're delighted to strengthen our creative staff and expand our capabilities with this exceptionally talented individual," said G.A. Wright Executive Creative Director Steve Hammond. "Our clients will benefit from his depth of experience."

Nick Ilievski Joins Four Winds Casino Resort as Executive Casino Host

Four Winds Casino Resort announced today that Nick Ilievski has been named an Executive Casino Host. Nick has 12 years of player development and casino marketing experience and joins Four Winds after serving as the Director of Player Development at the Majestic Star Casino in Gary, Ind. Prior to his tenure with the Majestic Star Casino, Nick held positions with Harrah's/Rio National Marketing and Caesars World Marketing. He began his career in the casino industry as an Executive Casino Host at the Majestic Star Casino in 1996.



Nick Ilievski

Linda Gilbert Named to IT Position at Oneida Nation



Linda Gilbert

Linda Gilbert of Jamesville has been named Director of Programs and innovation for the Information Technology (IT) department at the Oneida Indian Nation. She was previously Director of Information Technology for the Nation's Turning Stone Resort and Casino. In her new capacity, she provides innovative solutions to align with business operations initiatives, establishes governance programs and oversees the management of IT

Security for the Oneida Nation and its business enterprises, including Turning Stone.

Gilbert joined the Nation's workforce as a gaming analyst in 2003 and was promoted to manager of the IT program management office in 2005. Earlier in her career, she was employed by the MONY Group in Syracuse for nearly 26 years in several positions from a Business Analyst/Programmer to an Assistant Vice President.

Slot Machine Vendor Hires Casino Personality Gary Green

Celebrated casino personality Gary Green has signed an agreement to be the public face of Synergy Gaming, a Florida-based slot machine company that has recently been showing up on the radar of gaming Industry analysts and casino operators. Green is best known as a flamboyant developer and operator of Native American and commercial casinos across the United States; he



Gary Green

is also author of the popular casino book "Gambling Man."

Synergy CEO Luc Marcoux announced Green's appointment as Executive Vice President of Synergy Gaming and the official public face of the company. Green will lead the company's growth into the traditional and Native casino markets where he has spent the last three decades.

"This is an amazing little company that out-of-the-gate offers a complete package of both Class III and Class II game titles, as well as a back-of-the-house system, player tracking, and even a progressive; it is a package rarely seen in a company this size," said Green, who is a former Donald Trump Vice President of Casino Marketing and Player Development.

Green's appointment begins immediately and he will be appearing at a Synergy Gaming booth at the Bingo World tradeshow in Las Vegas of March 3rd and 4th.

Veteran Hotel Executive Elected to Lead



Julius Kazen

Veteran hotel executive Julius Kazen of Spa Resort Casino, has been elected President of the Palm Springs Hospitality Association.

Kazen has more than 30 years experience in the luxury hotel industry. He started his career at the Las Vegas Hilton as a youth counselor, and quickly worked his way up the ranks, ultimately to Vice President, Hotel Operations. Kazen held the position for five years, before joining

Spa Resort Casino as Director of Hotel Operations in 2006.

In addition to his newly elected position as President of the Palm Springs Hospitality Association, Kazen sits on the Executive Board of the Planning Budget Joint Committee, which oversees the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism. He also is a member of the Board of Main Street Palm Springs, as well as the Palm Springs Desert Resorts CVA.

Spa Resort Casino General Manager Jeff Pepple says Kazen's new volunteer position is an asset. "We are pleased that Julius has been elected to this prestigious position and look forward to growing our partnership with the hospitality and tourism industries in Palm Springs."

Saunders Joins Oneida Nation's IT Department as Director

Todd Saunders of Clinton has been named Director of Operations support for the Information Technology (IT) department of the Oneida Indian Nation. In this capacity, he oversees all aspects of day to day computer operations for the Nation and its enterprises, including Turning Stone Resort and Casino.

Before joining the Oneida Nation, Saunders was IT Infrastructure Operations manager for Carrier Corporation in Syracuse. A graduate of St. Lawrence



Todd Saunders

University, he has 15 years of experience in the area of information technology, primarily in the banking and investment sector.

Saunders is active in his community, serving as president of the Clinton American Youth Soccer Organization, member of the Clinton Youth Hockey Board and a volunteer soccer coach for three teams.

Oneida Indian Nation Names Dana Sovocool Director of Human Resources



Dana Sovocool

Dana Sovocool has been named Director of Human Resources for the Oneida Indian Nation. In this position, he oversees human resources for the Nation and all of its enterprises, including Turning Stone Resort and Casino.

Sovocool originally joined the Oneida Nation in 1993 as a Human Resources Specialist with the pre-opening team focusing on recruitment and training. His early responsibilities included recruiting gaming staff for Turning Stone Casino. He was promoted to Team Relations Manager in 1998, initially overseeing employee relations and eventually taking responsibility for management of compensation and benefits. Sovocool was promoted to Senior Human Resources Manager in 2003, a position that put him in charge of employee relations at Turning Stone Resort and Casino. In addition, he managed of all of the Oneida Nation's employee benefits programs.

A graduate of the University of Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management, he also possesses a graduate certificate in Labor Relations from Cornell University's School of Industrial Labor Relations.

Sovocool resides in Liverpool, N.Y. and enjoys singing and performing regularly in Syracuse-area theatre.

T.J. Matthews Elected as Chairman of AGA Board - Boyd Gaming's Keith Smith Elected as Vice Chairman, Two New Directors Elected

At the December annual meeting of the American Gaming Association (AGA), the AGA board of directors elected Thomas J. (T.J.) Matthews, Chairman and CEO of International Game Technology, to serve as Chairman of the AGA. Matthews, who served as Vice Chairman of the AGA board for the past two years, succeeds Gary Loveman, Chairman, CEO and president of Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., and commenced his two-year term as of the beginning of the year.

Keith Smith, Chairman and CEO of Boyd Gaming Corporation was elected to replace Matthews as Vice Chairman, and Loveman will remain a member of the AGA board. ♣



T.J. Matthews

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Blackfoot Nation Officially Opens Largest Casino in Montana

Glacier Peaks Casino, Montana's first real casino, officially opened in Browning, Montana with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 29, 2006. A host of exciting festivities were planned, including the firing of a confetti canon and ten Elvis Presley impersonators parachuting into the casino's parking lot. Area tribal, business, and gaming industry notables and VIPs attended. Located near the entrance of the world famous Glacier National Park, "the Crown of the Continent," and adjacent to the U.S. Department of Interior's Plains Indians Museum, the new Glacier Peaks Casino is the first Vegas-style casino in the region and the largest casino in the Northwest. "We are really excited about the unbelievable potential we have due to our proximity to the border of Alberta, Canada and to Glacier National Park, which draws more than 7 million tourists each year," Gary Green, the casino's general manager and one of the most successful and best-known gurus in the gaming industry, said. "We're not only the largest in the state, but also one of the most beautiful in the Northwest. Guests will gasp at the breathtaking mountain views, while enjoying more than 500 slot machines, non-house-banked blackjack, poker, and mini-baccarat, Class II bingo-based roulette, craps tables, tuxedoed dealers, and feather-clad Las Vegas-style showgirls." For more information, visit www.siyedevelopment.com/peak.html.



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